

Claims

1. A method for accessing a first application by a first server and then replacing said first application with a second application executing in a second server, said first server having a first, local storage, said second server having a second, local storage, said method comprising the steps of:

routing a request for an application identified by a first level name and a second level name from a proxy server to said first server, said first server requesting from said first local storage said application identified by said first level name and said second level name, said request being redirected from said first local storage to said first application in a shared storage, said first application in said shared storage having said first level name, said second level name and a third level name, wherein said first level name, said second level name and said third level name of said first application form a hierarchical directory in said shared storage; and

subsequently routing a request for said application identified by said first level name and said second level name to a second server, said second server requesting from said second local storage, said application identified by said first level name and said second level name, said request being redirected from said second local storage to said second application in said shared storage, said second application in said shared storage having said first level name, said second level name and a third level name different than said third level name of said first application in said shared storage, wherein said first level name, said second level name and said third level name of said second application form a hierarchical directory in said shared storage.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second application is a more recent version of said first application.

3. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein there is a proxy server which routed said request for said application identified by said first level name and said second level name to said first server, and further comprising the step of reconfiguring said proxy server to route subsequent

requests for said application identified by said first level name and said second level name to said second server instead of said first server.

4. A method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a third server which accesses from said shared storage said first application identified by said first level name, said second level name and said third level name of said first application prior to the subsequently routing request step.

5. A method for accessing a first application by a first server and then replacing said first application with a second application executing in a second server, said first server having a first, local storage, said second server having a second, local storage, said method comprising the steps of:

routing a request for an application identified by a first hierarchical directory from a proxy server to said first server, said first server requesting from said first local storage said application identified by said first hierarchical directory, said first server request being redirected from said first local storage to said first application in said shared storage, said first application in said shared storage having a second, extended hierarchical directory comprising said first hierarchical directory plus a lower level qualifier; and

subsequently routing a request for said application identified by said first hierarchical directory to a second server, said second server requesting from said second local storage said application identified by said first hierarchical directory, said second server request being redirected from said second local storage to said second application in said shared storage, said second application in said shared storage having a third, extended hierarchical directory comprising said first hierarchical directory plus a lower level qualifier different than that of said second, extended hierarchical directory.

6. A method as set forth in claim 5 wherein said second application is a more recent version of said first application.

7. A method as set forth in claim 5 wherein there is a proxy server which routed said request for said application identified by said first hierarchical directory to said first server, and further comprising the step of reconfiguring said proxy server to route subsequent requests for said application identified by said first hierarchical directory to said second server instead of said first server.

8. A method as set forth in claim 5 further comprising a third server which accesses from said shared storage said first application identified by said second, extended hierarchical directory prior to the subsequently routing request step.

9. A method as set forth in claim 5 wherein said first hierarchical directory comprises at least two levels of qualifiers.

10. A method for controlling access to first and second applications in a shared storage, said method comprising the steps of:

a first server requesting from a first local storage a copy of an application identified by a first level name and a second level name, said first server request being redirected from said first local storage to said first application in said shared storage, said first application in said shared storage having said first level name, said second level name and a third level name, wherein said first level name, said second level name and said third level name of said first application form a hierarchical directory in said shared storage; and

subsequently, a second server requesting from a second local storage a copy of an application identified by said first level name and said second level name, said second server request being redirected from said second local storage to said second application in said shared storage, said second application in said shared storage having said first level name, said second level name and a third level name different than said third level name of said first application in

said shared storage, wherein said first level name, said second level name and said third level name of said second application form a hierarchical directory in said shared storage.

11. A method for controlling access to first and second applications in a shared storage, said method comprising the steps of:

a first server requesting from a first local storage a copy of an application identified by a first hierarchical directory, said first server request being redirected from said first local storage to said first application in said shared storage, said first application in said shared storage having a second, extended hierarchical directory comprising said first hierarchical directory plus a lower level qualifier; and

subsequently, a second server requesting from a second local storage a copy of an application identified by said first hierarchical directory, said second server request being redirected from said second local storage to said second application in said shared storage, said second application in said shared storage having a third, extended hierarchical directory comprising said first hierarchical directory plus a lower level qualifier different than the lower level qualifier of said second, extended hierarchical directory.

12. A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said second application is a more recent version of said first application.

13. A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein there is a proxy server which routed said request for said application identified by said first hierarchical directory to said first server, and further comprising the step of reconfiguring said proxy server to route subsequent requests for said application identified by said first hierarchical directory to said second server instead of said first server.

14. A method as set forth in claim 11 further comprising a third server which accesses from said shared storage said first application identified by said second, extended hierarchical directory prior to the subsequently routing request step.

15. A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said first hierarchical directory comprises at least two levels of qualifiers.